

Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)

SNNP02

Charles Darwin University

- Application requirements
- Clinical requirements and forms

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Introduction

The Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) course (SNNP01) offered by the Faculty of Health, at the Charles Darwin University is accredited by Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and includes additional clinical entry requirements described below. The course is approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) as leading to eligibility for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner (NP). The NMBA is a National Board under the Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Agency (AHPRA). A healthcare organisation is required to provide support for a Nurse Practitioner student who applies to the course.

You are required to provide the following information to evidence your eligibility for Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) SNNP01:

- Registration with AHPRA
- Academic transcripts of Bachelor of Nursing and Post Graduate qualification AQF 8 or higher.
- A current CV demonstrating:
 - a minimum of two (2) years full-time equivalent (FTE) employment as a registered nurse in the same specified clinical field as your postgraduate qualification.
 - an additional two (2) years FTE of recent advanced nursing practice in the same clinical field.
 - Statement of service to evidence the above information.

Clinical requirement forms:

- A Letter of support from your chosen healthcare organisation that agrees to provide
 - the clinical support team and placement for a minimum of 300 hours of supernumerary integrated professional practice (IPP). (See page 7)
- Complete and signed forms from the Clinical Support Team (CST), comprising of:
 - one Clinical mentor; and
 - two additional members

Your CST will provide support throughout your enrolment in this course, it is important to note that they must be easily accessible to you, ensuring consistent supervision, both direct and indirect, plus mentoring throughout your student journey.

Conditions that the students' as Registered Nurses are to conform by during the course:

1. Students who need to change the supporting healthcare organisation after the application (either before or after course commencement) must submit all required documents from the proposed new organisation to the Faculty via NursePractitioner@cdu.edu.au to be assessed and approved for eligibility. Student who do not conform with this will lose their place in the course.
2. Comply with the National Law by notifying the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency if a student undertaking integrated professional practice has an impairment that may place the public at risk of harm.
3. Specific requirements for right of entry to health services for integrated professional practice experience placements (including, fitness for practice, immunisation, and criminal history), students may be required to show evidence of the above i.e. vaccination, working with children check.
4. Requirements specified in the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner Registration Standard. See [NMBA Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner](#)

Role of the Clinical Support Team (CST)

The role of the clinical support team is pivotal in the development of the nurse practitioner (NP) student's expanded practice. The NP student will be working closely with their team to further enhance their clinical skills, critical thinking, clinical decision-making, diagnostic reasoning, client management, and professional practice. NP's work in close collaboration with other health professionals; hence it is important that this collaboration with a multi-disciplinary clinical support team is present throughout the course with the aim to prepare these students for the role. The CST are to provide direct and indirect supervision, as defined below, during the length of the course.

- Direct: The clinical mentor or support person are physically in the same room or space, e.g. bay, as the NP student.
- Indirect: The clinical mentor or support person are in close proximity to the NP student, to allow for easy access for support and mentoring. This is most commonly in another consult room, on the same ward or outpatient department. It can in some cases especially in the later part of the program also be that the clinical mentor or support person are on the same hospital campus.

The CST must contain one Clinical Mentor and two additional CST members. The three team members must be comprised of one of each roles outlined below to ensure that you have appropriate coverage of support in nursing, medical and pharmacology fields covered in this course:

- A Nurse Practitioner (NP) – preferable within your clinical specialisation:
- A Medical Practitioner - with specialisation in a suitable clinical field (e.g. physician, surgeon, cardiologist, general practitioner);
- A Pharmacist.

All members of the CST should be employed at a minimum of 0.5 full time equivalent (FTE) to be easily accessible for you. Casual staff members are not eligible to be clinical mentors or clinical support team members since consistency in the supervision can be negatively affected.

It is desirable that all CST members have at least one of the following:

- postgraduate qualification in education
- experience from supervision of NP students
- experience of supervising registrars or medical students.

Clinical Mentor Requirements and Responsibilities

The Clinical Mentor (CM) is an experienced clinician, committed to the education, support and guidance of the NP student in their clinical environment. The CM takes a leading role of the NP student's CST.

The CM will be responsible for the supervision of the NP student but does not have to work for the total specified clinical Integrated professional practice (IPP) hours that the NP student is required to undertake.

The CM must be either:

- A Nurse Practitioner with at least one-year full time experience as a NP in relevant clinical field. OR
- A Medical Practitioner with a specialisation in relevant clinical field.

The responsibilities of the CM are to:

- Provide clinical advice as it applies to the student's context of practice;
- Assist the student with the development of his/her personal clinical goals and competency for expanded practice;
- Provide an assessment to the university of the student's ability and capability to be safe and competent in their expanded practice;
- Participate in assessment in the clinical setting of the student as required by the specific unit/s.

CST Member Requirements and Responsibilities

In addition to a CM, the CST must have two (2) additional members. The CST takes a multi-disciplinary approach and must consist of the following:

- Nurse Practitioner or Medical Practitioner, this should be whichever is not your CM; and
- A pharmacist

The responsibilities of the CST, are to assist the NP student in the following ways:

- Being accessible to the student.
- Conducting regular case reviews with the NP student.
- Discussion and assessment of clinical decisions
- Recommendations for future patient care.
- Supporting the student to develop the NP role in their clinical environment.
- Encouraging a reflective approach as the student works into the role of NP.
- Working with the NP student to identify learning needs and suitable resources.
- Clinical teaching.
- Patient management in collaboration with the NP student.
- Providing ongoing formative feedback.
- Assessment in collaboration with the University.

The above will be covered whilst handling case management, patient assessment, diagnostic procedures including radiology, pharmacological management of patients and ongoing care of patients and their families.

The SNNP01 course uses the Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan (SOAP) format for all patient documentation and case study presentations/Vivas, therefore it is expected that students would become familiar with discussing and presenting patients using SOAP.

Role of the Education Provider

The Course Coordinator for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) (SNNP01) monitors the academic progress of each NP student. The responsibilities of the unit coordinator and course coordinator are to support the CST and CM by:

- Providing ongoing support for the student, CM and CST in the clinical setting through regular contacts.
- Working with student to develop learning approaches as they work into the expanded role.
- Identification of learning needs with student.
- Planning learning activities with student.
- Collaborating with the mentor and CST to identify an 'at risk' student.
- Planning and supporting the CM and CST with assessment of a student.

Integrated Professional Practice (IPP) Requirements

It is common that most NP students will continue working in their clinical area of specialty while undertaking their studies. The course requires a minimum of 300 hours supernumerary* IPP be undertaken by each student. These hours will provide the student opportunity to further develop their skills and professional practice in order to grow into the expanded role of an NP with the guidance of their CST and CM. The required minimum of 300 hours has been spread over their whole course (see below) to support the student in their professional growth.

Year 1 Semester 1 50h
Semester 2 100h

Year 2 Semester 1 20h
Semester 2 130h

TOTAL 300 hours

*Definition Appendix 1 (Page 11-12)

Most students will be combining part-time study with work and the clinical requirements of the units in which they are enrolled. Because of their previous work experience, students will have varying levels of expertise in different aspects of the course. This means that some units in the course may be relatively easy and others less if the material differs from their usual practice. The CST along with the unit coordinator should be ready to assist, therefore students are encouraged not to delay the identification of any difficulties with content, clinical application, or time management.

If at any time a student has difficulty in meeting the clinical requirements of the course, it is their responsibility to raise this as soon as practical with the course coordinator so that a resolution to any issues can occur with the relevant clinical area.

Applicant Checklist

This checklist must be completed and provided alongside the below required documents. Incomplete applications will not be assessed, making it crucial that applicants ensure all documentation outlined below is included prior to submitting. The copies of the following documentation, proof of eligibility, academic transcripts and the statements of service, must be certified by a Justice of the Peace or similar.

Submit the completed application to NursePractitioner@cdu.edu.au.

Applicant Name: _____

| Documents to be submitted | Completed Y/N | |
|--|---------------|----|
| Proof of eligibility as a domestic student (i.e. passport) | Yes | No |
| AHPRA registration | Yes | No |
| Academic transcripts Bachelor of Nursing Post Graduate qualification | Yes | No |
| Current CV demonstrating two years full time equivalent (FTE) as a registered nurse in your clinical field. Plus, two years FTE of advanced practice in the same clinical field, outlining the advanced practice | Yes | No |
| Statements of service | Yes | No |
| Letter of Support from healthcare organisation signed by an Executive Director of Nursing (or equivalent) | Yes | No |
| Clinical Mentor agreement completed by either a Nurse Practitioner or Medical Practitioner | Yes | No |
| Clinical Support Team (CST) agreement 1 | Yes | No |
| Clinical Support Team (CST) agreement 2 | Yes | No |

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Letter of Support from Healthcare Organisation

This form is to be completed by the Executive Director of Nursing (or equivalent) at the healthcare organisation at which you will be undertaking your Integrated Professional Practice (IPP) Requirements.

I, _____
in the position of _____
on behalf of _____
agree to support _____
in undertaking the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) course with Charles Darwin University,
should they be accepted.

I acknowledge that I have read the Clinical requirements including IPP and the course information. I confirm that the organisation is committed to supporting the studies of this student by providing them with the opportunities for a minimum of 300 hours of supernumerary IPP during the program.

I certify that I have kept a copy of this document for my records.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is a Student Placement Agreement required to support the student in their IPP hours with your organisation? (please tick one box below)

YES

NO

If Yes, please provide the following details:

Name and contact details for the person within your organisation who manages student placement agreements.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Clinical Mentor Agreement

I, _____
registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA), hereby state that I have read the provided documentation regarding the role and responsibilities of the Clinical Mentor (CM) for a Nurse Practitioner student.

I agree to be the Clinical Mentor for _____
whilst they are undertaking the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) with Charles Darwin University for the duration of their enrolment in the course.

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

AHPRA registration no: _____

Qualifications: _____

Postgraduate qualification in education and/or previous experience mentoring NP or Medical students or Registrars: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Clinical Support Team Member Agreement 1

I, _____
registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA), hereby state that I have read the provided documentation regarding the role and responsibilities of a Clinical Support Team Member (CST) for a Nurse Practitioner student.

I agree to be the Clinical Mentor for _____
whilst they are undertaking the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) with Charles Darwin University for the duration of their enrolment in the course.

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

AHPRA registration no: _____

Qualifications: _____

Postgraduate qualification in education and/or previous experience mentoring NP or Medical students or Registrars: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Clinical Support Team Member Agreement 2

I, _____
registered with Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA), hereby state that I have read the provided documentation regarding the role and responsibilities of a Clinical Support Team Member (CST) for a Nurse Practitioner student.

I agree to be a Clinical Support Team Member for _____
whilst they are undertaking the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) with Charles Darwin University for the duration of their enrolment in the course.

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

AHPRA registration no: _____

Qualifications: _____

Postgraduate qualification in education and/or previous experience mentoring NP or Medical students or Registrars: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Appendix 1



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Interpretation and explanation of supernumerary integrated professional practice for nurse practitioner students

Integrated professional practice

This explanatory note has been prepared to help education providers, professional practice providers and students of nurse practitioner programs of study understand the interpretation of supernumerary integrated professional practice in the context of nurse practitioner education. This explanatory note provides clarification relating to the interpretation of supernumerary for integrated professional practice as it must apply in nurse practitioner programs of study.

The [Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standards \(2015\)](#) define supernumerary as:

Where the student undertakes supervised practice outside their employed position or when they are not counted in the staffing roster.

Integrated professional practice in the context of nurse practitioner students is undertaken:

- by registered nurses who are either employed or self-employed and are required to undertake 300 hours of professional practice to enable learning and demonstrate achievement of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's Nurse practitioner standards for practice
- in preparation and practice for their future role as a nurse practitioner, the students apply advanced levels of knowledge, skills, and experience to perform clinical skills or episodes of care considered to be advanced practice
- under supervision of an appropriately qualified and experienced supervisor and for the duration of the integrated professional practice event, the student is supernumerary.

Integrated professional practice should provide a supported learning environment for the development of clinical skills and capability in episodes of care, including but not

limited to those described in the Nurse practitioner standards for practice:

1. Assesses using diagnostic capability
2. Plans care and engages others
3. Prescribes and implements therapeutic interventions
4. Evaluates outcomes and improves practice

Supernumerary in context of integrated professional practice

Nurse practitioner students can obtain supernumerary integrated professional practice in one, or a combination of three ways:

1. Undertaking scheduled and supervised integrated professional practice in the clinical setting where they are employed, but not rostered at that time.
Nurse practitioner students undertaking supernumerary integrated professional practice in the clinical setting where they are employed do so with supervision for the tasks they are undertaking and are in addition to the usual complement of staff in the healthcare setting. The service provided in the healthcare setting could continue to be delivered without the nurse practitioner student's presence.
2. Undertaking unscheduled, opportunistic, and supervised integrated professional practice in the clinical setting where they are employed and counted in the roster of the clinical setting.
During a rostered shift there may be an opportunity for the nurse practitioner student to become supernumerary. If the clinical workload at the time allows them to undertake the advanced practice under supervision, this can be counted as integrated professional practice time. In this circumstance the normal provision of rostered duty care cannot be compromised.
3. Undertaking supervised practice in a clinical setting where they are not employed.
Nurse practitioner students may visit another clinical setting within their own employment setting or health service or visit another clinical facility to undertake supernumerary integrated professional practice.

Management of supernumerary integrated professional practice

In principle, the duration of each block of supernumerary practice can vary and should be organised into periods that are manageable by the student and the health care provider. The sessions should be of sufficient duration to comprehensively develop skills and capabilities required of a nurse practitioner.

The full 300 hours of supervised integrated professional practice is documented to provide evidence the student has achieved the Nurse practitioner standards for practice as approved by their clinical supervisor(s) and education provider.

The nurse practitioner student is responsible for negotiating a plan to meet their integrated professional practice requirements in a way that minimises disruption to the clinical setting.

| Version Number | Date | Short Description of Amendment |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| V1.0 | April 2018 | First Explanatory Note |

Accreditation Services 17 April 2018